29th January 1934]

(*i*) whether it is a fact that a resolution for validating the Chairman's order appointing a Water-works supervisor was one of the items on the agenda of the municipal council on 31st August 1933, and that in spite of the Chairman's request to defer passing orders till the decision of the Council was known, the Government cancelled the appointment a day before the meeting of the Council; and

(*j*) what the reasons were for not awaiting the resolution of the Council?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes, but no objection was raised at the time as the Government were not in full possession of all the facts.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) As the Government understood that the person appointed by the Chairman was not suitable for the post of the Water-works Supervisor they called for the information.

(*e*) Yes; but the appointment was objected to not entirely on the ground referred to by the hon. Member but because of the existence of a specific resolution of the municipal council to keep the post in abeyance, which had not been rescinded by it at any time.

(*f*) Yes; but the Government do not consider it necessary to lay the correspondence on the table.

(*g*) Yes.

(*h*) The Government did not consider that any legal opinion was necessary.

(*i*) Yes.

(*j*) Even if the Council ratified the Chairman's action the appointment was still invalid as it was made contrary to the recommendations of the Sanitary Engineer.

Mr. J. A. Davis:—"May I know if Government issued specific subsequent orders directing the filling of this appointment?"

Mr. E. Conran Smith:—"I think all the orders issued by the Government have been mentioned in the answer to the interpellation."

Mr. J. A. Davis:—"May I know whether the orders of Government were placed before the Municipal Council, whether the Chairman prevented compliance with those orders by ruling all resolutions and discussion thereon out of order and whether a protest against such action is before Government?"

Mr. E. Conran Smith:—"The order was placed before the Council but the Chairman disallowed discussion."

Provision of drinking water wells in cheris with houses less than 100 in number.

* 520 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur A. Appadurai Pillai: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is an order of Government to the effect that drinking water wells should not be sanctioned for *cheris* where the number of houses is less than 100;

(*b*) whether this is a hard and fast rule which cannot be relaxed in any circumstances; and

(*c*) what are the orders of Government as to how cases where, though the number of houses fall below the prescribed limit, there is real need for drinking water-supply are to be dealt with?

520 540—

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) & (*c*) Do not arise.

Agriculture

Outbreak of a new disease affecting the potato tubers.

* 521 *Q*.—Rao Sahib V. I. Muniswami Pillai: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that there has been increased crop of potatoes on the Nilgiris during this year raised with the fertilizers and that large amounts of potatoes had to be thrown out as they were diseased;

(*b*) whether they propose to make enquiries as to the nature of the disease in the potato tubers and how to eradicate the same;

(*c*) how long the Nanjanad seed farm has been working and what the quantities are of seed raised during the past five years;

(*d*) whether the farm had any disease prevalent in its fields and what action was taken to remedy the same;

(*e*) whether the Government will be pleased to publish the experiments carried out and results obtained in a booklet for the information of the ryots interested in this crop; and

(*f*) whether the Director of Agriculture visited the seed farm during the past six months and what his impressions are as to the public utility of the seed farm?

A.—(*a*) The Government understand that artificial fertilizers are being increasingly used in the cultivation of potatoes on the Nilgiris. If the fertilizers are not properly balanced in regard to nitrogen, phosphate and potash, the crop may be affected by disease.

(*b*) Samples of diseased potatoes are sent to the Government Mycologist as and when found. The main diseases diagnosed are—

(1) Ring disease
(2) Fusarium species } on tubers.
(3) Rhizoctonia

(4) Alternaria (early blight) on leaves.

The nature of these diseases is fairly well known and advice for their prevention is being given.

(*c*) The Nanjanad farm started work in 1917. The quantity of seed raised in the past five years was 17,972 maunds.